

Weekly Status & Information Report: December 12 - 16, 2011

1. Official City Meetings Scheduled the Week of December 19, 2011:

- The City Council will be on recess until January 3, 2012.
- The Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 20, has been canceled.
- The Takoma Park Board of Elections will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, in the Third Floor Council Conference Room.

All meetings are held in the Community Center and open to the public unless noted otherwise. Contact JessieC@takomagov.org to check for cancellations or for additional information.

(City Clerk)

2. Children's Book Sale: The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library are holding a special Children's Book Sale at the Takoma Park Maryland Library this Saturday, December 17, from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Come pick up some great holiday gifts at bargain prices at the book sale, which will take place in the rotunda around the Library's Computer Learning Center. All proceeds benefit the Library and are used to support such programs as Spanish Circle Time, French Circle Time, and many others. At the sale, you'll be able to buy brand new review copies of books for kids from birth through teens. Books will be offered at bargain prices -- \$2 for hardcovers (which normally cost \$10-\$18!) and \$1 for paperbacks. We'll also have 10 copies of one of the hottest books in America -- "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever" -- autographed by the author, Jeff Kinney. The autographed copies are \$20 each. Come early for the best selection! *(Library)*

3. And Make A Day Of It! That same day -- Saturday, December 17 -- at 10:30 a.m., we'll offer our monthly French Circle Time, followed at 11:15 a.m. by our third annual Holiday Sing-A-Long with local musician Wendy Lanxner and her music students. Then, from 2:00 -4:00 p.m., kids are invited to make holiday gifts. (Registration is required for the gift-making program so we can be sure to have enough craft materials for all. To register, go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259). *(Library)*

4. Banned Books: Our two Banned Books Clubs (one for kids in grades 3 through 5, the other for pre-teens and teens) will meet together this Monday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m. to read picture books that have been challenged. Participants also are welcome to read aloud passages from children's novels that have been challenged. All welcome, but registration is required. To register, go to: www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html. *(Library)*

5. Winter Solstice: Join us on Thursday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m. as we usher in a new season. We'll start by drumming, led by master drummer Bill Jenkins. Then at 7:30, the Foggy Bottom Morris Men with swoop in with songs, stories and dancing. No registration required for this event, which is great for all ages. *(Library)*

6. New Website for Emergency Information: There is a new website for residents of the Washington, D.C. area to help prepare for emergencies and receive information during emergencies: www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov. Besides information on how to prepare for emergencies, there are links to utility outage maps, weather information, and information from jurisdictions in the National Capital area. Residents are encouraged to bookmark this site and go to it during emergencies for up-to-date information. *(Deputy City Manager)*

7. Seniors Open Art Studio: Eleven seniors expressed their creativity using glass techniques and materials in the Open Art Studio on Monday, December 12. For more information about the senior program art classes, please contact Paula Lisowski, Seniors Program Manager, at 301-891-7280, or PaulaL@takomagov.org. *(Recreation)*

8. Seniors Enjoy December Festivities: What a fabulous way for the Silver Foxes to end the year. Twenty seniors began the festivities on Tuesday, December 13, with an evening trip to see the Festival of Lights including a wonderful performance by the Stonewall Jackson High School Choir & Vocal Ensemble at the Washington DC Mormon Temple Visitors' Center. More holiday fun on Thursday, December 15, when the New Dimension Singers presented "A Warm and Wondrous Christmas" performance for 30 seniors in the Community Center Auditorium. *(Recreation)*

9. Seniors Birthday Party: Cake, ice cream and an entertaining game of "Wheel of Fortune" kept fifteen seniors laughing as they celebrated their October, November, and December birthdays. The party took place on Friday, December 16 in the Lilac Room. Next week: Bingo! *(Recreation)*

10. Winter Basketball League – League Update: Teams have now been formed and rosters will be distributed to coaches so that they can begin contacting the players on their team. There are a total of 72 teams and over 600 girls and boys involved in the league. Practices and games will begin the week of January 3, 2012. The Recreation Department would like to thank everyone who helped promote the 2012 season. Special thanks goes out to the Recreation Committee for their tireless efforts in helping to make sure the league was a success. *(Recreation)*

11. Winter Basketball League – 1st Grade Coaches are Needed: The Takoma Park Recreation Department is looking for a few more volunteers to help coach in our 1st grade coed division. There are currently 3 positions open. If you are interested in volunteering as a coach in this division please contact Lew McAllister at (301) 891-7284 or LewM@takomagov.org. *(Recreation)*

12. Indoor Soccer/Futsal League – Only 60 Spaces Available!: You've asked for it so here it is...The Takoma Park Recreation Department is now offering an 8 week Indoor Soccer/Futsal league. Program will promote indoor soccer play through

sportsmanship, teamwork and fun!! League is open to all girls and boys in grades 2-4. All participants will be assigned to teams and provided team shirts for league play. All games are played on Sundays from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm and are held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave.) To register online please visit: www.activenet.active.com/takomaparkrecreation. For additional information, please contact Lew McAllister at (301) 891-7284 or LewM@takomagov.org. (*Recreation*)

13. **Winter Basketball League – Volunteer Officials:** How many times have you played in or watched a basketball game on TV and said “I can do that”? Well, now is your chance. The Takoma Park Recreation Department is looking for hard working, spirited volunteers to officiate in the 2012 Winter Basketball League (Grades K-2). Games will take place on Saturday mornings beginning January 2012. Must be at least 16 to volunteer. No experience is necessary as training will be provided. For additional information or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lew McAllister at LewM@takomagov.org or (301) 891-7284. (*Recreation*)

14. **Karate/Self Defense at the Recreation Center:** On Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., Karate/Self Defense classes are offered at Takoma Park Recreation Center. This class promotes physical fitness, self defense, leadership and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan karate style, Isshinryu. This is a free on-going program for ages 14 and up. Come on out and enjoy the fun. For more information, contact John Webster @ 301-891-7289. (*Recreation*)

15. **Teen Talent Showcase:** The 2nd Annual Teen Talent showcase took place on Friday, December 9, 2011. This Talent showcase was non competitive and offered teens, who had never performed in front of an audience, the confidence to do so. Nine acts took place from singing and spoken word to belly dancing and rap. Refreshments were served after the event. (*Recreation*)

16. **Teen Ski and Snowboard Night Club:** Teens are excited and hoping for lots of snow because the 2012 Ski and Snowboard Night Club will begin in a little over a month. Teens will be escorted by the Takoma Park Recreation Department staff to Liberty and Whitetail mountains during 5 trips from January to March. From beginners to intermediate skiers and snowboarders, the teens can take lessons or head straight to the slopes for a Saturday evening of fun. There are only 4 spaces available, which includes transportation by the Recreation Department. However, parents can purchase Night Club Cards for family members and travel to the mountains at your leisure. For more information, contact Faye Wright, Fayew@takomagov.org. (*Recreation*)

17. **“Spring/Summer Activities Guide” Program Proposals due January 6, 2012:** Program proposals for the “2012 Spring/Summer Activities Guide” are now being accepted by the Takoma Park Recreation Department. The deadline for all Class Proposals is Friday, January 6, 2012. Class Proposal Forms can be picked up at the administrative office (7500 Maple Avenue) or by e-mailing EricR@takomagov.org for an electronic form. (*Recreation*)

18. **Holiday Concert this Saturday:** “We are Takoma” wraps up the holiday season with Calico Jack and friends this Saturday, December 17. Join us as we “Sail into the Season” and celebrate Maryland’s maritime tradition in song. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Auditorium. Free admission; donations welcome. <http://www.facebook.com/#!/TakomaParkMD>. (*Housing and Community Development*)

19. **New Ave Streetscape Meeting:** On Tuesday, December 13, City Planning Staff held a workshop on future streetscape standards for New Hampshire Avenue. Community residents who participated shared ideas and discussion on the existing identity and future character of the New Ave. Those who were unable to attend are encouraged to contribute online at <http://www.thenewave.com/development/projects/streetscape-standards>. (*Housing and Community Development*)

20. **Planning Board Discusses Bus Rapid Transit:** Staff attended the Bus Rapid Transit agenda item on the Bus Rapid Transit Network (BRT) Methodology recommendation at the Planning Board. Montgomery County is considering an extensive network of BRT throughout the County including on New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard. The City presented testimony that the City strategic plan is to advocate for improved mass transit services, reminded the Board that the K6 Bus Priority Corridor had just been completed and showed that New Hampshire Avenue is eminently suited for services such as BRT or Express. (*Housing and Community Development*)

21. **Takoma/Langley Sector Plan Design Guidelines Presentation by the Planning Board Staff - January 12:** Thursday, January 12 from 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. In response to the City’s resolution, Montgomery County Planning staff has been revising its draft of the design guidelines and will be presenting it to the community for discussion. See: www.thenewave.com/development/visions-and-plans/crossroads-urban-design-guidelines for background information. (*Housing and Community Development*)

22. **Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Discussion - January 18:** Your assistance is needed in creating a concept plan for a streetscape section where New Hampshire Avenue meets Ethan Allen Avenue / East-West Highway. Visit the project page to learn more about the project online and save the date for a public meeting on January 18, 2012. For more information, contact Erkin Ozberk at 301-891-7213 or: www.thenewave.com/development/projects/eag. (*Housing and Community Development*)

23. **Gardening Grants!:** Thought about greening the New Ave? Funding is available for community gardening and greening projects on public or institutional properties along the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor. There is funding for capital improvements, trees, bushes and perennials, and information sheets on resources and how to organize your own community garden association. Several gardens have been started with great success; however, there are many other spaces that can use some beautifying - whether planting and caring for a small tree or developing a full garden. The deadline for submitting applications for funding is January 31, 2012. Applications are available at www.thenewave.com/_files/docs/application-community-gardens.pdf. For more

information, contact Erkin Ozberk at 301-891-7213 or ErkinO@takomagov.org. (*Housing and Community Development*)

24. Officers in Meetings:

- Chief Ricucci is conducting interviews with candidates for our vacant police officer position.
- On December 12, Chief Ricucci met with Local 400 officials to discuss the police-related shooting.
- Chief Ricucci spoke to Montgomery County Police Chief Thomas Manger to thank him and his department for all of their assistance on the night of the police-related shooting. (*Police*)

25. Officers in Training:

- On December 14, various sworn personnel attended in-service training in the Council Chambers auditorium.
- On December 12 through 16, Pfc. Magnaye and Crime Analyst Gucciardo are attending Basic Instructor Program training at the Public Safety Education and Training Center, Sykesville. (*Police*)

26. Crime Report: The Takoma Park Police Weekly Crime Report is not available this week due to our Crime Analyst being away in training. It will be included in next week's report. (*Police*)

27. Traffic Enforcement: Officers conducted at least 207 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, one Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrest from traffic and five vehicle impounds.

During December 8-13, 2011, the following details were completed:

December 8, 2011

- 1000 block of East West Highway (speeding) – conducted a two-hour detail and issued five State citations for speed, two other State citations and one warning.

December 11, 2011

- East West Highway at Kentland Avenue (speeding) – conducted a 60-minute detail and issued one State citation.
- East West Highway at Kentland Avenue (speeding) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued one State citations for speed and seven other State citations.

December 12, 2011

- 7600 block of Maple Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.
- Takoma-Langley Crossroads Area (tag reader/suspensions) – conducted a detail at various times and issued six State citations.
- Maple Avenue & Sherman Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued three State citations.

December 13, 2011

- Park Avenue & Spruce Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one warning.
 - Kansas Avenue at Westmoreland Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one warning.
 - New Hampshire Avenue at Holton Lane (no left turn/no u-turn) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued three State citations.
 - Maple Avenue & Sherman Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.
 - 7400 – 7600 blocks of New Hampshire Avenue (various violations) - conducted a three and a half hour detail and issued 21 State citations.
 - Maple Avenue & Sherman Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued two State citations.
 - 1000 block of East West Highway (speeding) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued five State citations for speed, two other State citations and one warning.
- (*Police*)

28. Traffic Officer Stats (Cpl. Michelle Holmes):

State Citations issued: 56

City: 29

Warnings issued: 3

Reports: 3

Safety Equipment Repair Orders (SERO): 1

Calls: 7

Field Investigative Report (FIR): 2

Warrant service: 1

(*Police*)